

CONGRESSMAN MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

PENNSYLVANIA'S 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Congressman Fitzpatrick Urges Governor Rendell to Direct Aid To Bucks County Flood Victims

Washington D.C. — Congressman Michael G. Fitzpatrick today urged Pennsylvania Governor Edward Rendell to utilize \$10.4 million from the National Emergency Grant (NEG) to assist workers who lost their jobs due to recent flooding.

"The President, the Department of Labor, and I want to do everything we can to help Bucks County workers affected by recent flooding get back on their feet," said Fitzpatrick. "This \$10.4 million National Emergency Grant was intended to create jobs for unemployed workers to aid with disaster clean-up and help restore and rebuild the communities that have been impacted by these storms. I am hopeful that the Governor will direct the grant money to the disaster areas in Bucks County."

Awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor to Pennsylvania's Department of Labor and Industry, the NEG will provide temporary jobs for workers who became unemployed as a result of the recent floods, as well as other dislocated workers. The emergency funds will be used on projects that provide food, clothing, shelter and other humanitarian assistance for disaster victims.

Workers will help with demolition, renovation and reconstruction of destroyed public structures, facilities and lands, and will be able to assist with work on homes of economically disadvantaged individuals who are eligible for the federally funded weatherization program. Priority will be given to services for the elderly and individuals with disabilities.

"The grant will fund temporary jobs for workers who have lost their source of income due to the flooding. The Delaware River Canal is just one project that needs immediate work and funding. The NEG money can also provide services for the elderly and individuals with disabilities. The citizens of Bucks County have suffered a second devastating flood in the past six months. The grant money will give the residents of Bucks County a chance to continue their recovery from the recent floods," said Fitzpatrick.

In addition to the potential NEG jobs displaced workers should contact their nearest Career Link Center. To find the closest CareerLink Center, call 1-877-US2-JOBS or visit www.servicelocator.org.

Congressman Michael G. Fitzpatrick is a first term Congressman representing Bucks County, and portions of Philadelphia and Montgomery County.

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April 8, 2005

Governor Edward G. Rendell
Governor Edward G. Rendell's Office
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Re: National Emergency Grants and Bucks County

Dear Governor Rendell:

I am writing to request that your office direct to Bucks County all of the \$10.4 million National Emergency Grant (NEG) money authorized last year by U.S. Department of Labor to assist workers in who lost their jobs due to flooding.

Currently, the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry controls the NEG money. However, as of today, it has not utilized a significant amount of the NEG money to assist the flood disaster in Bucks County.

The \$10.4 million grant was intended to create jobs for unemployed and dislocated workers to aid with disaster clean-up and help restore and rebuild the communities in Pennsylvania that have been impacted by the recent storms. The emergency funds can be used on projects that provide food, clothing, shelter and other humanitarian assistance for disaster victims.

In Bucks County the NEG money can be used to hire workers to help with demolition, renovation and reconstruction of destroyed public structures, facilities and lands, and will be able to assist with work on homes of economically disadvantaged individuals who are eligible for the federally funded weatherization program. The Delaware River Canal is just one project that needs immediate work and funding. The NEG money can also provide services for the elderly and individuals with disabilities.

The citizens of Bucks County have suffered two devastating floods in the past six months. I am urging you to provide assistance to my constituents by immediately directing the necessary NEG money for use in Bucks County.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK
Member of Congress